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CONTACT REPORT

SUBJECT : ALFRED BERZINS

PARTICIPANTS: [] and []

DATE : 1 May 1945

TIME : 1030 hours

PLACE : Coffee Shop, McAlpin Hotel, New York City, New York

1. BERZINS spent the first 45 minutes of our conversation trying to promote his plan for using the Baltic Institute (this Institute is supported by the Free Europe Committee) for publishing material by his Indian friend, D. SAVARKAR. He proposes to continue sending this material to newspapers in uncommitted countries like India, Indonesia, Burma, and Egypt. He complained that while the Free Europe Committee was willing to spend 20 thousand dollars for a trip of 3 ACN members to the Far East, they were not willing to spend much money for a propaganda scheme for the African and Asian Nations. He asked us whether we had contacts who might be interested in supporting this program. We told him that while we thought it was a good idea, we had no funds available for such an activity but that we would inquire around Washington to see if there was money available.

2. In relation to the Far East trip of the ACN members, BERZINS gave his evaluation of VILAS MASENS, the former chairman of the ACN. BERZINS believes that while MASENS is a good talker and front man, he accomplishes very little. He further said that MASENS had not talked in Rome with any Italian radio officials as had been earlier reported in the emigre press. He believed when in Rome MASENS spoke only to LOZORATTIS about the possibilities of Latvian radio broadcasts.

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3. I asked him if he had any further information from REITMANIS in Copenhagen about the trip of (FNU) LARSON to Riga. I further asked if BERZINS had received the first name and other identifying data about LARSON. I explained that I could do little or nothing in relation to contacting LARSON until I knew his exact name. BERZINS said he did not believe he could write for the full name and other biographic data at this time but he thought he would have a legitimate reason for asking REITMANIS for these facts after LARSON returned from his first trip to Riga. I asked BERZINS to let me know as soon as he had any information on LARSON. BERZINS added, almost as an afterthought, that LARSON's son, who is in the Danish Air Force, had been assigned to work with Captain HEVID who is a staff officer of the Danish Intelligence Service.

4. BERZINS had been told by telephone on the day before that LEJINS' father is sick and that LEJINS might not travel to Rome immediately as planned. He told us that he had already written a letter to LOZORAITIS requesting the latter to give LEJINS all possible assistance while he was in Rome.

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